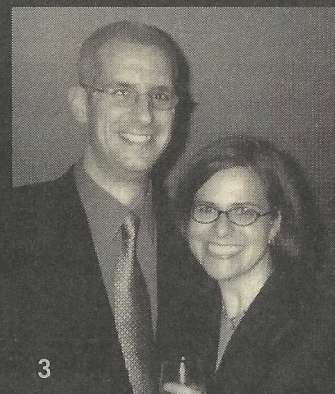
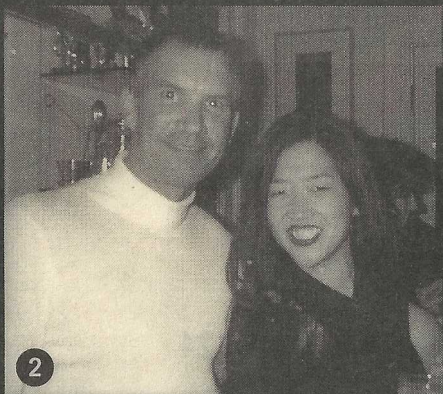
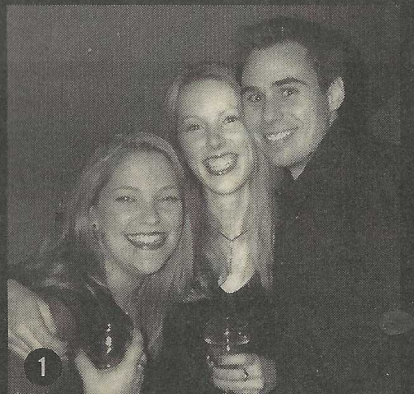
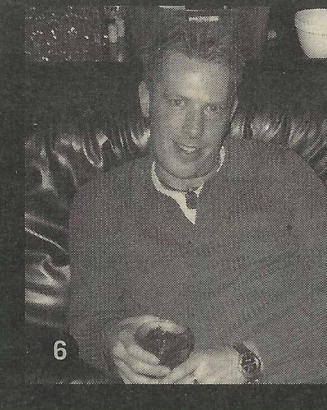
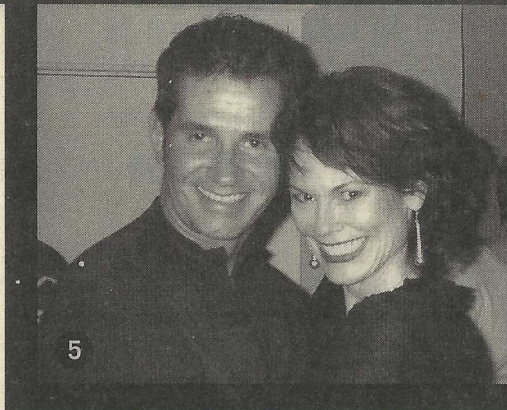


THE HOTTEST PARTY OF THE HOLIDAYS

BY MISS BELLA AND SELENE LAVINIA



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As the stockings are hung by the chimney with care, Columbus' eager-to-mingle prepare for the much-anticipated holiday party thrown by **Bruce Dooley** and **Paul Cianelli**. We **Ladies of Meltdown** were anxious to attend this annual event, known for its classy crowd and tasty refreshments.

The merrymaking was already underway when we arrived at the lovely Victorian Village home. "What a busy and festive atmosphere!" commented **Tim George**, as he ordered his Skyy and cranberry from bartender **Jana Pearce**. We ordered the same and proceeded to mingle.

David Lands and **Damon Wise** acknowledged that, "As usual, Bruce and Paul have thrown the best party of the Christmas season!" Damon was quite appreciative as we showered him with compliments on his good looks.

Our attention was diverted as **Hot Pick of the Night Chris Hannon** was spotted lounging on one of the comfy leather couches, casually sipping his drink. Chris is a really nice guy and we can't believe he's single!

Host Paul Cianelli was offering "peace and love to everybody" as he introduced us to the very glamorous **Karen Lynch**. Ms. Lynch was surrounded by a crowd of admirers. Word has it she's an accomplished photographer and artist.

Alive fan **David Brehm** hopes our publication "continues to push the envelope

with stive professionals in the city." **Archie Taylor** was enjoying the attractive crowd at what he billed to be "the social event of the year!"

Looking very stunning in her all-black ensemble was **Sharon Young**. Sharon's friend **Brian Higgins** was sporting a top hat, of which **Sir Thomas the Alcohol Man** was quite envious. Brian purchased the hat to go with his quasi-19th century tuxedo and will "wear it 'til Marley's ghost hunts me down!"

Sarah Torsell's sister **Rebecca** was visiting from Springfield. The ladies were accompanied by two very exotic men: **Jauffray Fougere** (from France!) and **Andy Sacher**, who told us, "Yes, I *have* eaten a Sachertorte!" They were all enjoying the great food.

Speaking of food, we were ready to eat! The party was catered by **Frezno**, and **Lori Ames** and **Kevin Egan** were happy to take us on a tour of the tempting buffet. The spicy Thai chicken and BBQ meatballs were especially tasty. The desserts—by **Piece of Cake**—were absolutely divine!

Marty Battershell and "Art Vandalae" were observing the scene from the crowded kitchen. **Chris Zuelke** said the occasion was "the best holiday party yet." Host Bruce Dooley was wearing fierce red velvet pants he bought in Miami! Stylish yet comfy, they were a real showstopper.

Erika Cucchetti, **Lauren Watson** and **Chris Matchison** make it to this event every year. The friendly group agreed, "This is the place to see and be seen!" Erika also wanted to give a special greeting to her husband **Chris**, who is currently serving our country in Kuwait.

We were impressed by the style of **Brian Skripac!** Brian's wife **Jennifer** informed us that he picked out his very funky yet fashionable outfit at **Express for Men**. Our favorite shirt of the night, worn by an anonymous guest, bore the inscription, "Party 'til He's Cute!"

TI MANY MARTOONIS: Around midnight, we were craving some great music in a laidback atmosphere. Where else to go but **Havana**? By the time we arrived it was packed with beautiful people.

If you've not been to this Short North bar, you've got to check it out! Its retro décor reminds us of being inside a swimming pool. You can play a game of billiards or just sit and chill on one of the comfy couches, and the bar serves some of the best martinis in town. **Natalie Cervone's** favorite is "by far the bananas Foster" while friend **John Cheung** favors the chocolate martini.

Havana also boasts some of the city's best trance and house music. Dance Music God **Gene Whitmore** VJs Thursday and Saturday nights—and yes, all his music is on

video! He enjoys the format because "people hear this music in the clubs, but normally never actually get to see it on video." Unfortunately the videos are only sold to DJs and bars, though it provides a perfect excuse to come to Havana.

Gene also told us about Havana's popular monthly drag shows. The next one is Thursday, December 19, organized by **Virginia West**.

Congratulations to **Nancy Marlons** and **Brent Gerlach!** The couple is planning a July wedding. They come to Havana often because "this is where we met." Their story revived our hopes that perhaps it *is* possible to meet quality men in a bar!

Phil Sanderson and **Jerrod Holland** complimented **Miss Bella's** shirt from **Forever 21**. "Why can't they have a Forever 21 for men?" Phil wondered. Good question! Regardless, Phil and Jerrod were very fashionable. It's nice to see well-dressed males when we're out.

A man known only as **Miguel Sanchez** gave us an interesting line: "Is your dad a baker? Because he gave you a nice set of buns!" At first we were a bit turned off by Miguel's remark, but he and friend **James Keller** turned out to be nice guys. Thanks for the drinks! And the compliment. We do make the gym a priority. ☺

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